STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (amended) A carrier <u>system</u> for transporting equipment, said carrier <u>system</u> comprising:

a vehicle having a cargo bed having a bottom surface and side surfaces; at least one carrier surface;

at least one elongated frame member mounted on said at least one carrier surface in said cargo bed in direct contact with said cargo bed to form a low profile system;

a slot formed in said at least one elongated frame member;

an inverted rim extending along at least one edge of said slot; and

equipment mounting hardware <u>having at least one indent for engaging said inverted rim</u> to attach said equipment mounting hardware mounted to said slot on said at least one elongated frame member.

- 2. (canceled)
- 3. (amended) The carrier system of claim 1 wherein said at least one carrier surface in said cargo bed includes:

a truck bed on said vehicle.

- 4. (canceled)
- 5. (canceled)
- 6. (amended) The carrier system of claim 1 wherein said slot includes:
- a C shaped slot.

- 7. (amended) The carrier system of claim 1 wherein said slot includes:
- a C shaped slot; and
- a spring nut contained in said C shaped slot for attaching said equipment mounting hardware to said elongated frame member.
- 8. (amended) The carrier <u>system</u> of claim 1 wherein said equipment mounting hardware includes:

sports equipment mounting hardware.

9. (amended) The carrier <u>system</u> of claim 1 wherein said equipment mounting hardware includes:

cargo mounting hardware.

10. (amended) The carrier <u>system</u> of claim 1 wherein said equipment mounting hardware includes:

at least one hook for attaching cargo securing devices.

11. (amended) The carrier <u>system</u> of claim 1 wherein said equipment mounting hardware includes:

at least one loop for attaching cargo securing devices.

12. (amended) The carrier <u>system</u> of claim 1 wherein said equipment mounting hardware includes:

hardware for attaching a compartment to said elongated frame member.